

Blue Ridge Audubon Board Candidates, 2022/23

Casey Girard is an illustrator, naturalist, and educator. Not only does Casey bird as often as possible, they use their photos and experiences to draw and paint the birds they see. In addition to drawing birds, recently they have drawn a series of Black Birders, Latino Conservationists, and other under-represented Naturalists to promote their outstanding environmental conservation work.

“While I am a relatively new birder, started in 2018, I am always happy to commit my time to helping community and conservation. I see Audubon as a great place to help with conservation and bring the community together for out in nature time while educating about the local flora and fauna.

I have worked as a substitute teacher for nursery through middle school. Being able to help plan and support programming for families and children is something I hope to do. I would hope that any outreach to families and children I help with can include DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion). In addition to being a teacher, I was field trip coordinator for the San Mateo Audubon in California. I was a regular field trip leader, including ones targeted for families. I see it as the more people are educated about how important our birds and plants are the more likely they are to participate in conservation”.

Clayton Gibb is an avid birdwatcher and Musician, currently working for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on the NC Bird Atlas project.

“I got into birding here in the mountains during my time studying at the University of North Carolina Asheville, from which I graduated last spring with a BS in Ecology and a BA in Music performance. My experience bird watching and bird banding in the Southern Appalachians deepened my understanding of the habitats present here and inspired me to pursue opportunities in ecological research. I am currently working for North Carolina Wildlife Resources on NCs first statewide Breeding Bird Atlas.

I am interested in becoming a BRAC board member to help protect birds and their habitats, while also giving more people the opportunity to observe, learn, and appreciate their natural surroundings. I am particularly interested in promoting and prioritizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the world of conservation and environmental protection. "